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**U.S. DISTRICT COURT ANNOUNCES
NEW ELECTRONIC CASE-FILEING SYSTEM**

BOSTON (June 4, 2002) – The U.S. District Court of Massachusetts today announced the adoption of a new case-management and electronic case-files system (CM/ECF) that will enable attorneys to file their cases electronically and will widen public access to court documents.

A demonstration of the CM/ECF system to familiarize members of the media, bar and public with its use will be held on Thursday, June 20, at 3 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room on the second floor of the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Way, Boston.

Designed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C., CM/ECF in Massachusetts will make those case documents filed electronically, or scanned by court personnel, available through the Internet on a round-the-clock basis. Implementation of the system will also result in the immediate creation of docket entries and instant access to updated docket sheets and case documents.

"With CM/ECF, the court moves fully into the 21st century, taking advantage of the Internet to file pleadings, maximizing access to public files," said U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner, technology liaison judge for the court.

Massachusetts is one of nine federal judicial districts participating in an initial rollout of CM/ECF and in a phased implementation of the system nationally. In this district, the implementation began in May and is expected to continue for about 10 months before the new system will be fully operational.

(more)

Staff members in the U.S. District Court clerk's office have launched the preliminary phase of the implementation, comparing the current case management system to the new filing system, and have begun preparing for the second phase, which will include personnel training, system installation and data conversion.

Those planning to attend the June 20 demonstration of the CM/ECF system should call Deborah Keefe in the clerk's office, at (617) 748-9165, or e-mail her, at Debby_Keefe@mad.uscourts.gov.

For additional information, please contact the U.S. District Court's projects manager, Helen Costello, at (617) 748-4428.

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